AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 were filed originally and were pending at the time of the Action.

Claims 5-8 are canceled.

Claim 1 is amended.

Accordingly, claims 1-4 and 9-18 remain pending.

1. **(Once Amended)** ~~In a distributed file system that stores files across multiple computers, a~~ A method comprising:

storing files across multiple computers in a distributed file system;

making changes to certain files;

collecting the changes that are made to the certain ~~multiple~~ files stored in the distributed file system; and

digitally signing the ~~multiple~~ changes in batch.

2. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the collecting comprises:

computing a hash of data in each file that is affected by the changes; and

grouping the hashes together in batch for signing.

3. **(Original)** A data structure, embodied on a computer-readable medium, produced by the method of claim 1.

4. **(Original)** One or more computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 1.

5. **(Canceled)**:

6. **(Canceled)**

7. **(Canceled)**

8. **(Canceled)**

9. **(Original)** In a distributed file system that stores encrypted files across multiple computers, a method comprising:

modifying one or more of the encrypted files;

computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file;

collecting the hash values into a group;

computing a hash value of the group; and

digitally signing the hash value of the group of hash values.

10. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the modified encrypted file includes a metadata stream containing a header and an indexing structure, the indexing structure including hashes of the files and a structure to access the hashes of the files, the computing a hash value of each modified

encrypted file further comprising deriving a hash of the header and at least part of the structure.

11. **(Original)** A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the modified encrypted file includes a metadata stream containing a header, per user information, and an indexing tree, the indexing tree including hashes of the files, branch nodes to access the hashes, and a root node, the computing a hash value of each modified encrypted file further comprising hashing as a single composite the header, the per user information, and the root node.

12. **(Original)** A data structure, embodied on a computer-readable medium, produced by the method of claim 9.

13. **(Original)** One or more computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, perform the method as recited in claim 9.

14. **(Original)** One or more computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to:

modify individual files stored in a serverless distributed file system;

compute a hash value of each modified file;

collect the hash values into a group; and

digitally signing the group of hash values.

15. **(Original)** One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 14, wherein the modified file includes a metadata stream containing a header and an indexing structure, the indexing structure including hashes of the files and a structure to access the hashes of the files, the media further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to derive a hash of the header and at least part of the structure.

16. **(Original)** One or more computer readable media as recited in claim 14, wherein the modified file includes a metadata stream containing a header, per user information, and an indexing tree, the indexing tree including hashes of the files, branch nodes to access the hashes, and a root node, the media further comprising computer-executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to hash as a single composite the header, the per user information, and the root node.

17. **(Original)** A data structure stored on a computer-readable medium comprising:

representations of modifications made to multiple files stored in a distributed file system; and

a digital signature covering at least part of the representations to indicate that the modifications were made by a user with the signature.

18. **(Original)** A data structure as recited in claim 17, wherein the representations comprise hashes of data in each file that is affected by the modifications.